

FOUL PLAY HINTS IN RUDY'S DEATH PROBE LOOMS AS RUMOR GROWS



THE WOMEN IN RUDY'S LIFE, none of whom was present at the sheik's deathbed. At the left is Jean Acker, Valentino's first love and the one credited with spurring him on to film fame. Next Winifred Shaughnessy Hudnut, or Natacha Rambova, as she is known in the film world, his second wife, loved her Rudy but was unwilling to sacrifice a career for him. She has been silent through his illness. Pola Negri, whom Valentino was to marry, is reported to have fainted when word of his death reached her at Los Angeles, where she was too busy to come to his bedside. Marion Benda, the fluffy "Follies" star, who admits being with the star on the night he was taken ill, was the last woman to be in his company when well.

Jealous Woman May Have Poisoned Sheik in Revenge

By JACK MILEY

Persistent reports along Broadway the past week, hinting darkly that the illness resulting in the death yesterday of Rudolph Valentino might be attributed to causes not disclosed in official bulletins by his physicians, may result today in a complete investigation of the film actor's last visit here.

Soon after Valentino had been rushed from an all-night revel at the cabarets to an operating table in Polyclinic Hospital these three stories began circulation:—

1. Rudolph Valentino had been poisoned by a jealous woman.
2. The sheik had been injured in a fight with a man, who had resented Rudy's attentions to a woman.
3. Valentino had been shot in a quarrel during a gay party.

Told of the nasty reports that had followed Valentino's sudden appearance at Polyclinic a week ago Sunday, Assistant District Attorney Ferdinand M. Pecora declared last night that when the matter is brought to him officially he will begin an investigation to refute the Ferdinand Pecora stories.



Rialto Echoes Reports
At the same time, Dr. William B. Rawles, assistant house physician at Polyclinic, denied that Valentino's condition had shown signs of poisoning or foul play.

Nevertheless, in Broadway's night clubs and cabarets this morning, credence was given this general belief by the bright light habits:—

"Poor Rudy—the kid was 'knocked off.' Yuh can't tell me he died from those things the doctors said—the whole thing looks fishy to me!"

Looked Fine a Week Ago

Valentino was seen by a newspaper man leaving the Texas Guinan club at 5 o'clock last Sunday morning. With him was Marion Benda, "Ziegfeld Revue" chorus girl, who had been his companion frequently since his arrival here.

"I saw him standing in front of

a mirror, fussing with his necktie," the reporter declared last night.

"I'd met him several times before, had interviewed him, in fact. I spoke to him as I passed, but he didn't answer me.

"He was perfectly sober and looked very well. When he didn't answer my greeting, I thought it was the 'high hat,' and presumed he'd forgotten my face. He was O K at that time, though."

Collapsed in Cab

Rudy left the place with Marion and called a cab, according to the girl's story. She said he collapsed in the cab and that she took him to the apartment of Barclay Warburton, Jr., where they had been to several gay functions together recently.

Barclay Warburton is elated to the late John Wanamaker. Prominent in Philadelphia and New York society, he left a position as president of a local newspaper to enter Wall Street with his father.

From there, stories of what followed vary. Miss Benda, after admitting to this reporter the day after Rudy was stricken that she had taken him to the apartment of friends, later declared Rudy had taken her home and left alone in a cab.

Taken to Hospital

Another version has it that Rudy

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Nab 400 in Italy As Fascist Foes

VERONA, ITALY, Aug. 24 (By U. P.).—Four hundred persons have been arrested here and in neighboring cities of this province charged with political activity in opposition to Premier Mussolini's Fascist regime.

Foresaw Early End, Friend Says of Valentino

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 24.—Rudolph Valentino preferred an early death to a decrepit old age, according to John W. Considine, producer of pictures. Mr. Considine says: "Valentino several times remarked to me, 'I shall die young. I know it, and I shall not be sorry. I should hate to live to be an old man.'"

M. D. Denies Guilt In Death of Girl From Operation

At the insistent demand of the district attorney's office in Homicide Court today Magistrate Renaud continued until Thursday the case of Dr. Jacques J. Alper, 160 Madison St., held on a charge of homicide in connection with the death in his office Saturday of Miss Frances Young, 19, 1170 Gerard Ave., The Bronx.

Louis K. Swarts and Abraham J. Gellinoff, his attorneys, bitterly assailed the police for his arrest.

Examination showed that the girl had undergone an illegal operation, but Dr. Alper denied all knowledge of it.

Bail of \$5,000 was continued.

Peritonitis the Cause Of Rudy's Death in Certificate

The death certificate of Rudolph Valentino has been filed with the Board of Health. It gives "ruptured gastric ulcer and general peritonitis" as the cause of his death and "septic pneumonia and septic endocarditis" as contributing factors.

On the certificate, Valentino was entered as "Rudolfo Guglielmi" and his age was given as 31. A slight delay was occasioned in filling the certificate owing to the difficulty in ascertaining his correct age.

Jean Acker's Love Notes To Valentino Called Fake

Another mystery developed today in connection with the sickness and death of Valentino.

Broadway buzzed about Rudolph Valentino's first wife.

All during Rudy's illness reports were given to the press by S. George Ullman, personal manager of "the great lover," that Jean Acker was in constant communication with the screen idol's sick-room in Polyclinic Hospital.

There were communiques issued that she had sent him loving messages of condolence and cheer. Another report was that she had sent him a bedspread—every stitch made by her own hands—every stitch a stitch of love.

Variety of Stories

There were stories that Valentino, in the shadow of death, had tucked her letters under his pillow. There were stories that "the ace of sheiks" had said, "There will never be another woman like Jean in my life."

And now the Rialto comes forward today and hurls the statement that Jean Acker never once, either by telephone, letter or messenger, communicated with Valentino.

And the "Who's Who" along the theatrical and cinema way go further. They ask:—

"Where is Jean Acker?—They assert that she is on the high seas. They charge that she sailed for Europe oblivious of the fight for life that her former husband was making—indifferent to 'the master lover.'"

Anyway, Jean Acker cannot be found, and in sifting the facts no one can be found who will state that Jean Acker ever visited the hospital or even called it on the telephone.

2 BUILDINGS BOMBED AFTER LABOR DISPUTE

CLEVELAND, Aug. 24 (By U. P.).—Two buildings in Cleveland Heights, a suburb, were bombed early today. The explosions occurred almost simultaneously, arousing the community.

Labor trouble in building trades was blamed for the explosions.

Withdraws Charge Of Attack by Cop

Police Sergeant Jeremiah McMahon of 5th Avenue Precinct, Brooklyn, was freed of a charge of assault today when the complainant withdrew the charge.

Jose Lebovitz of 353 4th St., Brooklyn, had alleged that on August 2 he saw a man stealing a tire from his automobile. Lebovitz said he chased the man, and that Sergeant McMahon, instead of trying to catch the would-be thief, struck Lebovitz. McMahon denied the charge. Lebovitz offered no explanation when he withdrew the charge.

